
SACRAMENTO RIVER CONSERVATION AREA

c/o California Department of Water Resources
2440 Main Street
Red Bluff, CA 96080



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SRCA NOTES

August, 2000

BOARD ESTABLISHES TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

At their July 27 meeting in Red Bluff, the SRCA Board established the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and set the parameters of that committee. Dan Keppen, NCWA representative, was asked to serve as interim Chairman until the TAC was up and going. The Board also assigned the first two of many issues the TAC will discuss: Define the Inner River Zone in reaches 3 & 4 (#3 Chico Landing to Colusa—#4 Colusa to Verona); and, provide a recommendation to the Board establishing criteria for "hard-points".

The Board felt that wide participation and discussion locally of issues was essential to the success of the committee. Counties, state and federal agencies, and interested groups will be invited to participate. The list of organizations includes: County Farm Bureaus; County RCDs; Sacramento Valley Landowners Association; Sacramento River Preservation Trust; The Family Water Alliance; Northern California Guides Association; The Nature Conservancy; Northern California Water Association; Sacramento River Water Contractors; Irrigation and Reclamation Districts; and others.

The functions of the TAC were outlined as follows: provide technical and scientific support and information to the Board; identify potential solutions that can gain maximum support of interested parties; provide a forum for information exchange between MOA signatories and interested groups on activities within the Sacramento River Conservation Area; and, refer to the Board any impending policy issues that may be identified during discussion.

The first TAC meeting will be held at the Orland Veterans Hall, August 21, 2000—10AM Orland. All those interested in issues along the Sacramento River are encouraged to attend.

JULY BOARD MEETING REPORT

The Board meeting included a discussion by the Board on issues raised by various groups and individuals that may be addressed through the SRCA. Those issues included concerns about PILT payments to counties; definition of "hard-points" along the River; a "good neighbor" policy; and, a delineation of the Inner River Zone (IRZ) in reaches 3 & 4 (Chico Landing to Verona). Several other concerns were expressed. Also discussed was a request by Colusa County to change the status of the Ex-officio Board members. A report by the Coordinator on current planning efforts and presentation by Howard Hutcheson of New Mexico was also part of the agenda.

Actions at the July Board meeting in Red Bluff included:

- ? Adopted recommendations for the establishment of the Technical Advisory Committee and assigning initial tasks to that Committee.
- ? Assignment of a committee to prioritize outstanding issues and recommend process of disposition of those issues.
- ? Set up committee to outline and begin the process for hiring a Manager.

The next SRCA Board meeting will be Aug 24, 2000---6:30PM, at the Enloe Conference Center, Northeast corner at East 5th Ave. and the Esplanade, Chico.

SITE SPECIFIC PLANNING PROGRESS UPDATE

As coordinator, I am responsible for facilitating site-specific planning efforts along the Sacramento River. Woodson Bridge and Hamilton City are two of the current planning efforts closely associated with the SRCA program.

Woodson Bridge—An area of the Sacramento River in Tehama County where erosion and flooding impact the Woodson Bridge State Park, a County park, private lands, and Woodson Bridge. DWR has done a Long-Term Solutions Study and through SB1086, meetings have been held with all interested parties, including landowners, to determine an acceptable solution. A staged solution could include some rock work to protect the west end of the bridge, extensive studies of impacts from possible river movement, and follow up restoration activities. Some surveys are in progress through the Comprehensive Study. Additional hydraulic and hydrologic studies, as well as modeling, need to be completed. The County of Tehama and DWR are in the process of defining the project and considering methods of funding needed activities. Local involvement and support has been good and progress reports are provided to stakeholders.

Hamilton City—An area where frequent flooding threatens towns, highways, and farmland. Hamilton City, in particular, is protected by a private levee that has been the subject of several flood fights and is threatened by erosion. The Corps of Engineers is finalizing feasibility study parameters for improved flood protection and the local Community Services District is fund-raising match money. A COE Section 205 Study agreement has been signed recently by the appropriate parties. Alternatives under consideration include setback levees and rebuilding the present levee. An extensive look at the area through the Comprehensive Study is being considered and there is the possibility of qualifying as an Early Implementation Project. Landowners, the Hamilton City Community Services District, Butte and Glenn Counties, the State Reclamation Board and The Nature Conservancy are working with the Corps of Engineers to establish a long-term plan for flood protection and habitat restoration.



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